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6 December 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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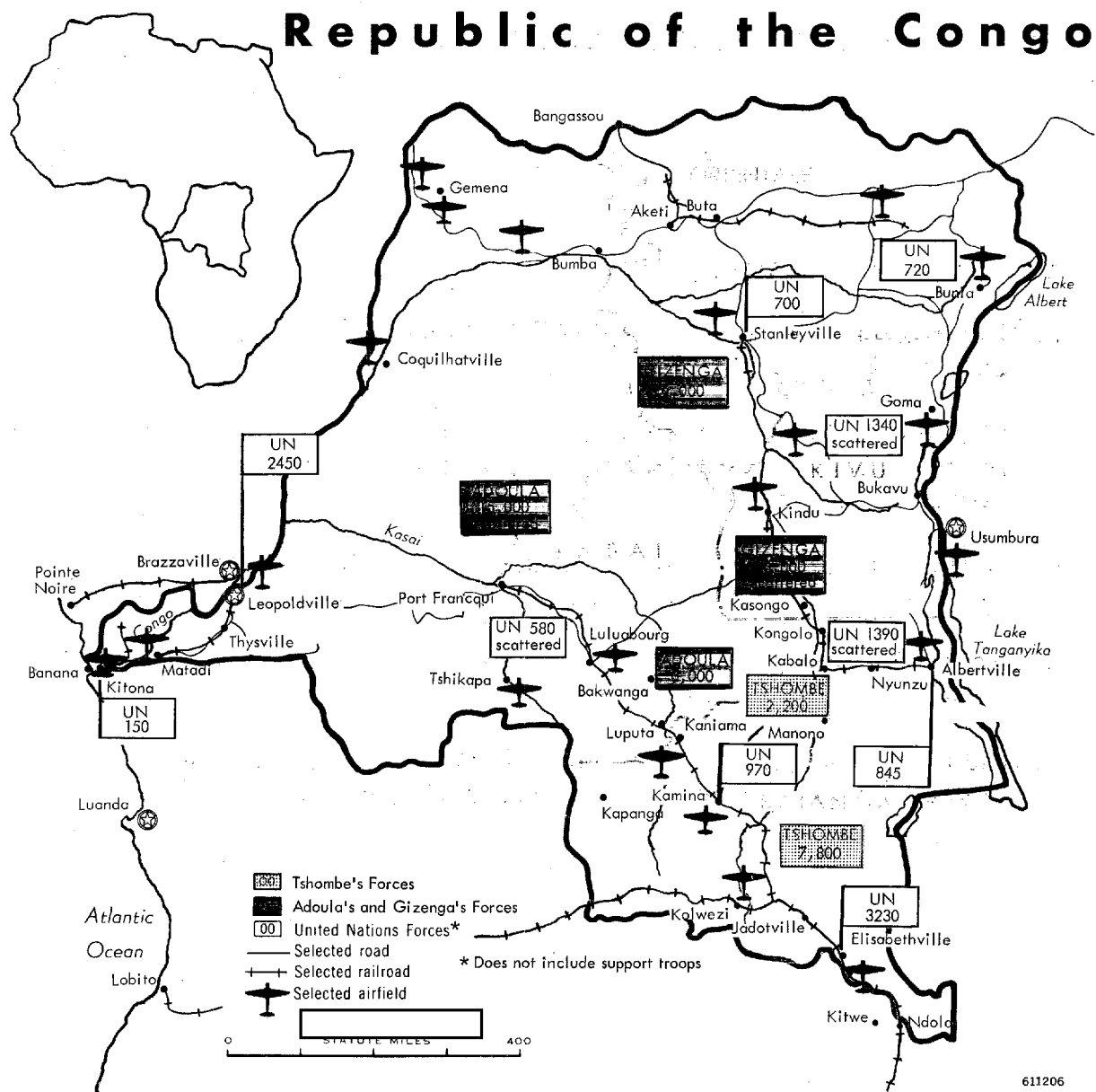
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DAILY BRIEF

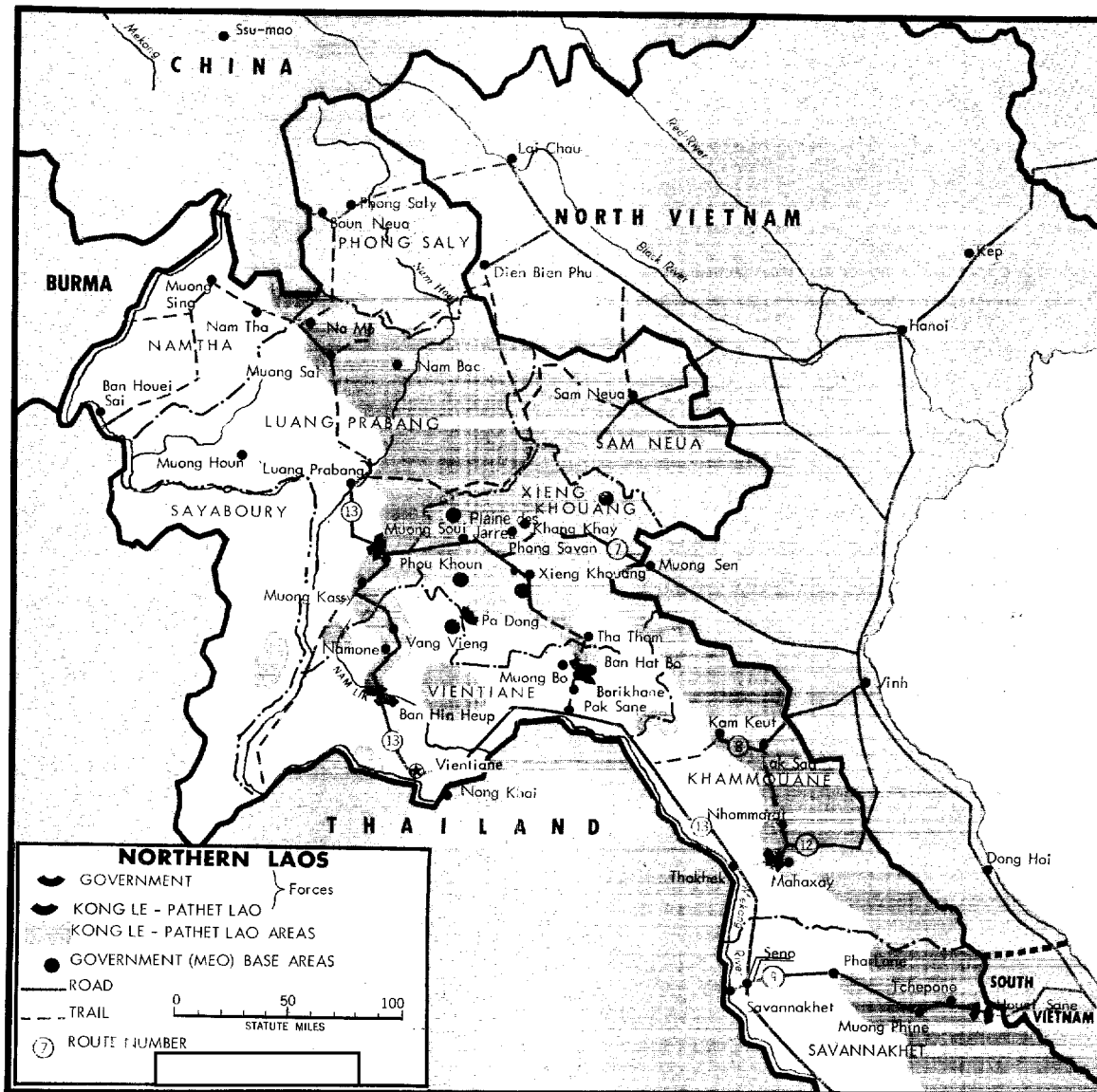
Congo: Fighting between UN and Katangan forces at Elisabethville has thus far centered on the outskirts of the city, particularly on the two roads from Elisabethville leading north to the airport and south to Kipushi. Katangan armored vehicles have appeared in Elisabethville for the first time; to date the Katangans appear not to have used aircraft. The crisis has been building up for several days, and stems from various factors--in part from poor discipline among certain Katangan units, which gave rise to several shooting incidents and arrests of UN personnel in recent days, and from a bellicose attitude on the part of Indian UN troops and certain UN officials. While the allegation by UN representative Urquhart concerning the existence of a Katangan "battle plan" for all-out war against UN forces is unconfirmed, Katangan forces were in position to attack UN forces, particularly around the airport. According to the US Consulate, a senior UN official warned on 4 December that unless all Katangan troops returned to barracks the UN Command would be obliged "to carry out its mandate."

UN representative Urquhart advised the consulate on 4 December that Swedish and Irish forces now in Elisabethville--originally scheduled for rotation during the first half of December--would not be moved until their replacements were on the scene.

*The UN has announced that 300 Swedish soldiers arrived at the UN-controlled Elisabethville airport during the night of 4 December. In Leopoldville, the UN Command has asked that US aircraft help lift further reinforcements to Elisabethville. UN representative Linner said UN jet fighters would escort such flights and would "spray the runway approaches" at Elisabethville.

On 5 December, Katangan Foreign Minister Kimba, speaking on behalf of the Katangan government, reasserted Katanga's claim to independence and charged the UN with breaking the

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cease-fire agreement. He warned that "unless the UN radically and immediately modifies its attitude toward Katanga," a state of war will exist and Katanga will attack UN aircraft flying over its territory.

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[redacted] Laos/ Phoumi's continuing redeployment of major military units may indicate his belief that a political settlement is not feasible and that he may have to bring about a de facto partition of Laos. With the recently completed movement of a mobile group from northern Laos to Thakhek, Phoumi now has six of nine such groups--each consisting of several infantry battalions and support elements--in the southern half of the country. [redacted]

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Communist China - India: Nehru has told his parliament that Peiping's 30 November note "hints" that China may send troops across the McMahon line into Indian-held territory if Indian military moves along the border do not cease. This would be the first threat by Peiping since the fighting in 1959 that Indian action in this area might lead to new border clashes. The Chinese threat will result in further domestic pressure on New Delhi--now caught up in national election campaigning in which China policy is an issue--to adopt a more forceful pose along the border, [possibly a lifting of the order that Indian forces may fire only in self-defense.] Nehru, in presenting the Chinese note to the Indian Parliament, reiterated his intention to "resist and repel" the Chinese. [redacted]
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Sino-Indian Actions Raise Tension in Border Area

Peiping's warning was in a reply to New Delhi's note last month accusing the Chinese of continuing border violations. The Chinese reply rejected India's charges and listed a new series of alleged Indian ground and air trespasses into Tibetan territory, thus seeking to make it appear that Indian initiatives are at the root of increased border tension. Since the setback to its reputation following the Sino-Indian boundary clashes of 1959, Peiping has carefully attempted to contrast its own "reasonable" attitude on the border dispute against what it alleges to be an inflexible and provocative attitude on the part of India.

Possibly in the hope of promoting this impression, Peiping recently informed New Delhi that it was willing to renegotiate the treaty with India covering trade in Tibet which expires in June 1962. New Delhi, disgusted over Chinese harassment of Indian merchants and trade agents in Tibet, and the virtual stoppage of trade in the past two years, had apparently decided not to take the initiative in renewing the treaty, preferring to allow it to lapse. Nehru told Parliament on 5 December that India had not yet responded to the Chinese bid, and hinted that New Delhi's response will "have to be conditional."

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